Broadgauge conversion of 'Madmai-Maniyachi section in a phased manner

- 1056. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board Gauge conversion of Madurai-Maniyaehi section of the proposed Karur-Dindigul Railway Project are likely to be started in a phased manner;

(b) if so, the amount to be allocated for thi$_s$ project; and

(c) by when thi$_s$ work would be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHAR AN DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The sanctioned cost of the pro ject (1986-87) is Rs. 44. 26 crores and the present day estimated cost is about Rs. 60 crores.

(c) The work has already beo taken up and rebuilding of bridges is in progress.

Balaramapural Tunnel

1057. SHRI M. VINCENT; Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Balaramapural Tunnel at K. M. 232/15 to 232/1 between Neman and Neyyattaikara on Trivandrum cape (See Appendix CLVI, Annexure No.

(b) if so, the step$_s$ taken t$_0$ reconstruct this tunnel; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the need for $_a$ Railway station at Parvathipuram, keeping in view of the importance of the place, i. e. Nag-arcoil and entire Kanyakumari District who use this important National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHANRAN DAS): (a) The tunnel is in asound condition and is not structurally unsafe.

(b) Reconstruction of th$_e$ tunnel is not considered necessary at this stage.

(c) Th$_e$ need for providing a Railway Station at Parvathipuram has; been examined but the proposal was not found justified.

Rehabilitation of working of Haldia Fertilizer Plant

1058. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of AGRICUL TURE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation's Haldia plant i$_s$ going to be scrapped as it is not viable; and

(b) if so, what are Government's plans to rehabilitate its over 1800 working hands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPTT. OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH), fa) N$_0$ decision has been taken to scrap the Haldia fertilizer project.

(b) Options of revamping are being examined and working hands are still in position, therefore, the question of their rehabilitation does not arise.

Benefit $_0$f PDS *to* law paid Govt, employees and wage earners

1059. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN; Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a f^{act} that in the re-oriented Public Distribution System even low paid Government employees and wage earners are left out from beneficiaries of th$_e$ system; and

(b) if so, whether the change in the policy has something to do with external pressures to reduce subsidy level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SARWAR HUSSAIN); (a) There is no change in Government's policy on Public Distribution System so far. Th$_e$ Govt. does not intend to reduce the number of beneficiaries so far as weaker ec-tions of the population are concerned.

(b) While the question does not arise, Government takes decisions on merits.

Delivery of stocks to Ne$_w$ Super Consumers Cooperative Store, Delhi by N. C. C. F. without clearance of cheque

1060. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state.

(a) whether the New Super Consumers Coopfative Store, Delhi hav$_e$ recently taken delivery of stocks from N. G. C. F. worth about Rs. 50, 000/-in collusion with an Assistant Manager, N. C. C. F. against a cheque, which bounced;

(b) whether it ig also a fact that the said Store cheated N. C. C. F. fraudu lently by taking delivery of 260 kgs. of Almonds in excess without payment to N. C. C. F. by manipulating under-weighed weighment slips in collusion with an Assistant Manager-II, N. C. C. F. on 19th December, 1980 from Hindus tan Cold Storage Godown and in which case the Enquiry Officer has commen ted that Assistant Manager-II in N. C. C. F. In collaboration of! the said Store might have shown short weighments in the supplies to the Store; and

(c) if so, whether N. C. C. F. have blacklisted th$_e$ said Store; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SARWAR HUSSAIN): (a) The NCCF have reported that it$_s$ Delhi branch had supplied goods worth Rs. 51, 971. 50 to The New Super Cons. Cooperative Store, Delhi in 1990 against a cheque which was not cleared. Subsequently the NCCF had realised their dues and also initiated disciplinary proceedings against the Asstt. Manager concerned.

(b) and (c) The NCCF had conduced a departmental enquiry against the then Asst. Manager II, incharge of godown at Lawrence Road involved in the transaction. However, the inquiry Officer had returned the specific chaise of manipulation of weight of almonds a$_s$ not proved. The NCCF had issued instructions to its branches in August, 1990 prohibiting any dealings with M/s. New Super Cons. Cooperative Store, Delhi.

Supply of safe drinking water in Flourisis Affected states

1061. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRI-CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the revelation made in a joint paper "Global consultations" on providing "safe water" recently held in New Delhi under the UNDP chat as many as 13 States in the country have been identified as "endemic" for flourisis and other related diseases caused by drinking water containing fluoride; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Sub-Mission on Control of Fluorosis under the National Drinking Water Mission various measures have been taken to identify the areas where fluorosis is available or high amount of fluorine is available in drinking water, to supply ion meters to the affected States |UTs for water quality analysis, to conduct awareness camps for health education to set up 479 defluorida-tion plants (fill and draw type and handpump attached) and to supply safe drinking water through alternate sources.

भारत आने वाले विदेशी पर्यटकों की संख्या

1062. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) नवम्बर, 1989 से नवम्बर, 1990 के बीच कितने विदेशी पर्यटक भारत आए ;